their back, the tails of the young being wrapped round that of the mother. It is not only the pouched species which carry their young in something of this fashion. Azara's Opossum, an animal as big as a cat, is said to carry its eleven young ones (themselves as large as rats) on the back, though their foothold does not appear to be strengthened by inter-twining the tails. Even with this huge family on her back, the mother can climb trees with considerable alacrity. The mammae

FIG. 84.—Thick tailed Opossum. *Didelphys crassicaudata.* x|.

are seven to twenty-five in number. The genus has been lately split up into a number of genera, *Mhrmosa, Dromiciops, Peramys,* etc.

Ch'ironcctes is hardly different from *DidelgJiys.* It has webbed hind-feet, and is aquatic in habit. The one species of the genus is known as the Yapock, and is a Central and South American form. It is of about the size of a large rat, and appears to be an expert diver after the fish upon which it lives.

Fam. 3. Peramelidae.—The Bandicoots, although clearly be-longing to the Polyprotodont Marsupials, yet agree with the Diprotodonts in the fact that the second and third toes of trie feet are bound up in a common integument, which is not the case with the Diprotodont *Oaenolest.es.* The hind-feet are longer than the front; of the former limb, two or three of the ringers alone are long and functional; the others are rudi-mentary or absent. Tail long, hairy, and non-prehensile. Denti-tion I-JC^ Pm-§- M-j- = 48, or sometimes, owing to the absence of a pair of upper incisors, 46. There is a caecum.

The genus *Peragcde,* the Babbit-Bandicoots, consists of two